

South Kingstown Mo Mtg

Men

Letter Book

Women

1831 — 1890⁷

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS^x
N. E. FOR NEW ENGLAND Y. M.

From our Monthly Meeting of Friends of South Kingstown in the state of Rhode Island in North America. held the 24th of 1st month 1831. — To Friends in Great Britain and Ireland where these may come.

Dear Friends

Our beloved friend John Milbur opened to us a prospect, which for some years has been upon his mind, to make a religious visit to you in Gospel Love; and in a feeling and weighty manner spread his concern before us. — The subject has engaged our solid attention and consideration as well as our sympathy with our friend in his exercise.

From these feelings and deliberations, we have thought it right to manifest our unity with him in his concern, and leave him at liberty to pursue his prospect according to the good order of our Society as the Truth may open his way, he being a Minister in good esteem with us, of exemplary life and conversation, and having settled his outward affairs to satisfaction. — We therefore commend him to your acceptance and tender re-

gard, desiring that he may be mercifully pre-
served under the protection and guidance of
Divine Grace through Jesus Christ our Lord—
and that when His services are accomplished
he may be favored to return to us with the
reward of Peace.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting
aforesaid by. Timothy C. Collins,
Elizabeth Peckham Clerks

Lydia Wilbur.	Ann Brown.	Sarah Foster
Mary A. Collins	Mary Dockray	Ruth Ann. Foster.
Mary A. Robinson.	Elizabeth Browning.	Mary Foster.
Lydia Wilbur Jr	Mary W. Collins.	Bathsheba Collins.
Phoebe Foster	Susan C. Wilbur.	Judith F. Peckham.
Hannah C. Wilbur	Hannah Hazard.	Elizabeth Perry.
Mary D. Collins.	Hannah B. Williams.	
Ann Knowles.	Martha Collins.	Elizabeth Foster.
Rebecca Legar.	Eliza N. Collins.	Mary Ann Foster
Susanna Cole.	Dorcas Babcock.	
Elizabeth Hopie.	Wait- Babcock.	Susannah Wilbur.
Elizabeth Watson.	Hannah M. Babcock.	
Eunice Foster	Dorcas G. Babcock.	
Lydia Collins.	Mercy Dockray	Sarah Congdon.

Abel Collins. Hezekiah Babcock. George Foster.
Andrew Nichols. Jeffrey Watson. Samuel Sheffield.
Thomas Foster. Joshua Hopie. Benjamin Knowles.
James Robinson. John Foster. Jeremiah Foster.
Christopher Browning. Ethan Foster. John B. Foster.
Uthrael Foster. John Foster 2nd. Charles Perry.
John B. Dockray. John Peckham. Isaac Collins.
William Nichols. William A. Robinson.
John H. Kenyon. Benjamin F. Knowles.
Peter Collins. William L. Perry. Abel Collins, Jr.
Lewis Collins. Abel Gardner. Ethan Foster Jr.

Our beloved friend John Wilbur having opened
in this Meeting his prospect of visiting Great-
Britain and Ireland in the love of the
Gospel as expressed in the within certificate.

The subject has received our deliberate con-
sideration, and near unity and sympathy
with him in this important engagement have
been manifested, and he is left at liberty to
proceed therein as Truth may open the way.

Signed by direction and on
behalf of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting

held at East Greenwich the 5th of 5th month 1831.

William Jenkins. Clerk.

Hannah Gould. jr. Clerk.

Moses Brown. Correspondent.

At a Meeting for Sufferings held in London
the 24th of 18th mo 1831.

The needful Certificates
on behalf of our friend John Wilbur of New
England Yearly Meeting, liberating him for
religious service in Great-Britain and Ireland;
and also a letter from two of the Correspondents
of that Yearly Meeting to one of our Correspond-
ents, stating that our said friend was so
liberated, have been produced and read:

The said Certificates have been now examined,
agreeably to the directions of our Yearly Meeting
of 1829, and appear to be correct.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting.

by George Stacey. Clerk.

The Second Part.

From South Kingstown Monthly Meeting to
Friends, in the State of Rhode Island, North
America, held at South Kingstown the 25th &
26th Month 1853.

To Friends in Great Britain and Ireland
where so ever this may come.

Dear Friends,

Our beloved friend John
Wilbur in a feeling and weighty manner
opened in this Meeting a concern, which for
a considerable time has rested upon his mind,
to pay a religious visit in Gospel Love, to Friends
and others in some parts of your Land; which
after a time of solid and deliberate consideration
was united with, and he is left at liberty
and encouraged to attend thereto as Truth may
open the way; he being a member of this Meet-
ing, and a Minister in unity and good esteem
with us, and his outward affairs settled to
satisfaction. We therefore commend him to
the sympathy and kind attention of those
among whom his lot may be cast. Blessing
you for him, in this his evening sacrifice, the

protection and guidance of Divine Grace through
Jesus Christ- our Lord and Saviour; and that
when his services are accomplished he may, if
consistent with the Divine Will be permitted to
return to us with the reward of Peace.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting
aforesaid.

Ethan Foster. }
Ann Perry. } Clerks.

Oriniel Foster.

John Foster.

John Beecham.

Stephen D. Foster.

Charles Perry.

William Foster.

Thomas Foster.

Isaiah Bay.

Thomas Perry.

John W. Foster.

Ethan B. Foster.

Thomas W. Foster.

George Crossfield Foster.

Ernie Foster.

Judith H. Beecham.

Eliza W. Sheffield.

Sarah Greene.

Mary Greene.

Elizabeth A. Sheffield.

Ann K. Sheffield.

Elizabeth Watson.

Amperance Perry.

Ruth Anne Foster.

Martha Foster.

Lysida W. Foster.

Phoebe H. Foster.

Phoebe Milbur.
Phoebe Foster.
Susan C. May.
Elizabeth Perry.
Sarah Perry.
Elizabeth Perry jr.
Elizabeth Gardner.
Abby M. Gardner.
Mary A. Gardner.
Anna A. Foster.
Susan Cole.

Sarah Sheffield.
Ruth Sheffield.
Thomas J. Collins.
Simcon F. Perry.
Joshua Gardner.
John M. Gardner.
Mary S. Collins.
Nancy Collins.
Charles M. Collins.
William H. Milbur.

Our beloved friend John Milbur having
opened in this meeting a prospect of visiting
in the love of the Gospel, Friends and others
in some parts of Great-Britain and Ireland
as expressed in the within Certificate — after
a time of serious and deliberate consideration,
very much sympathy and full unity with him
in this important engagement — were felt
and expressed, and he is left at liberty and
encouraged to proceed therein as Truth may open
the way.

Signed by direction and on behalf of

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting of Friends
held at East Greenwich the 3rd of 5th month 1853.

Charles Perry Clerk.
Phoebe Foster Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Ministers and
Elders held at Newport on Rhode Island
for New England by adjournments the eleventh
and fifteenth of the sixth month 1853.

To Friends in Great-Britain and Ireland,
or where this may come.

Dear Friends,

Our endeared ancient Friend
John Wilbur in an impressive and convincing
manner, opened in this Meeting a concern,
which has for some time past rested with
much and continued weight upon his mind,
again to visit, under the constraining in-
fluence of Gospel Love, Friends and others
in some parts of Great-Britain and Ireland.

This Meeting was brought into much sympathy
and tender feeling with him in the prospect of
so arduous an engagement, at this advanced pe-
riod of his life, and after a time of serious and
weighty deliberation, - believing the sacrifice is
called for at his hands, - full unity was felt
and expressed with him in the concern; and
the Certificate granted him by South Kingstown
Monthly Meeting, held at South Kingstown the
23rd of the 4th month 1852, with an endorse-
ment by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting held
at East Greenwich the 5th of the 5th month follow-
ing, were produced and read, and he was en-
couraged and set at liberty to pursue his pro-
spect, as expressed in those Certificates, and as
best Wisdom may direct.

He also felt an engagement
further to inform you and all whom it may con-
cern that he is a Minister with whom we share
unity in the fellowship of the Gospel of our Lord
and Saviour Jesus Christ, being sound in word
and doctrine - deeply experienced in the School
of Christ - long tried in the Furnace of affliction
for the Lord's sake, and, as we believe, firmly

rooted and established in the Faith which was
once delivered to the Saints, and that his life
and conversation are consistent with our Chris-
tian profession, manifesting a commendable
zeal, and an exemplary engagement for the
promulgation of the Truth, and for the faith-
ful maintenance of the same.

As such we com-
mend him to your acceptance, and to the care
and keeping of the Shepherd of Israel, sincere-
ly and fervently desiring that his mind may
continue to be endowed with Heavenly Wisdom—
that he may be guided thereby in all his move-
ments, purely to the Lord's honor and the pro-
motion of the cause of Truth and righteousness
in the Earth; and that, if consistent with the
Divine will, when his service amongst you is
accomplished, he may be permitted to return
to his family and friends in this land with the
reward of Peace.

Signed by direction, and on behalf of the Meeting

Thomas W. Gould. Clerk.

We, the undersigned, Members of the Society of
Friends of Leeds England, feel desirous to
acknowledge the satisfaction we have experi-
enced in the company and Gospel labours a-
mongst us of our dear Friend John Milbur.

And we would further express our sym-
pathy with him in his present religious concern,
and our desire that through the continued good
news and mercy of God in Christ Jesus, he may
be helped and preserved through all, and in
due season be restored to his family and friends
with the everlasting blessing of peace.

Leeds June 1854. Mary Wright. William Dyson.
aged 98 years Ann Dyson.
Wilson Armistead. John Dyson.
Mary W. Armistead. Sarah Dyson.
Joseph Kitching. Daniel Richard.
Sarah Kitching. Isaac Richard.
Maria Kitching. William Watson.
John Good. John M. Gardner.
John Naylor.

Dated at Bakenell in the County of Derby.
2nd Month 1854.

We, the undersigned, who are members of the
Society of Friends, residing in England, desire
to record the following, our testimony, con-
cerning our beloved friend John Wilbur, who
has been recently engaged in the work of the
Ministry in this Country, having a certificate
of unity therein from Friends in New England.

That we, having had more or less
some of the company of this our dear friend
both in and out of meetings, and having
witnessed his general demeanour whilst
amongst us, Do hereby declare our unity
with him in his work and mission in this
country; and that his presence and services
have been acceptable and also strengthening,
in the Truth; raising a desire in our minds
that his return to his own Country may
be attended with the reward of peace.

William Gauntley. Elizabeth Wright-
Ann Standing. Henry Bowman.

Mary Brownson. Catherine Smith.
Lucy Anne Smith. Edward Gauntley.
Rachel Gauntley.

From Lydia Ann Farrelly (and others)

I have thought it might be acceptable to the
dear family, and friends of my dear and
honored friend John Wilbur. To know that,
from what I have heard, his labors in the
Gospel appear to have been very acceptable
and strengthening to a remnant amongst us
in this land, his speech and preaching be-
ing "not with the enticing words of man's wis-
dom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and
of power" — and while concerned faithfully
to contend for the facts and still, ad-
dressed to the Saints, he appears to have evinced
much gentleness, humility, and meekness, amidst
the many trials and sufferings which it has
alast Eden his lot to meet with, even from
those who are professing the principles of Truth.

And although I have not from deafness
been able to hear his ministrations, yet I
have been permitted to feel at such times
that lively power which is beyond words,
and I bless the Lord who I believe sent him
to visit us — desiring earnestly that if con-
sistent with the Divine will, when the time
for his release from this afflicting service is
come, he may be graciously permitted to re-
turn home with the enriching reward of peace,
and the clothing of humble praise to the Lord
who has sustained, girded, and preserved him.

Lydia A Barclay
Aberdeen. 19th of 2nd mo. 1854.

The undersigned unite in the foregoing testimony.
William Smeal. Margaret Smeal.
Robert Smeal. John Smeal.
Mary Smeal. Mary Hawley.
Elizabeth Smeal.
Glasgow. 1st of 3rd month 1854.

William Gray. Edinburgh.

We the undersigned who are members of the
Society of Friends residing in different parts of
England, viz Dorking and Surrey, desire to
record the following our testimony concerning
our beloved Friend John Milbur who has
been recently engaged in the work of the Ministry
in this Country, having a certificate of unity
therein from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in
New England.

That we having had (more or less)
leave of the Company of this our dear Friend
both in and out of Meetings, and having
witnessed his general demeanour while amongst
us. Do hereby declare our unity with him in
his work and mission in this Country, and that
his presence and service have been acceptable
and also strengthening in the Truth, raising in
our minds the desire that his return to his
own Country may be attended with the reward
of Peace.

John George Hayman.
Sarah Hayman.
John Cheal.
Mary Cheal.

John Standing Junr.
James Chatter.
Elizabeth Dale.
John Dale.
Mary Dale.

Copy of a Communication

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at London England

Dear Friends, -

Our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England assembled at Westerly Rhode Island has received a letter from you referring to the several bodies of Friends in America who are not in correspondence with your Meeting because of separations which have occurred within the past sixty years.

We heartily agree with you in deploring the divisions which have taken place among professed Friends in this country; and while we grieve for these things we have still more sorrow for the faithless ones on the part of many which rendered such divisions unavoidable.

When early Friends separated themselves from the Church of England and from other professed Christian bodies, they found such division necessary because of divergence in faith and practice, although all professed allegiance to the same Holy Spirit; and so in 1827

in this land, there seemed no other course to pursue in the face of a great difference of principle; likewise in the more recent cases it seemed impossible for us to remain with those who had ceased to be Friends according to the ancient standard, and who were endeavoring to appropriate our honored name and carry back the entire body of the Society to the very forms and practices which George Fox and the early Friends testified against - and from which they separated.

The expressions in your letter referring to the groundwork of our common faith as a Society, find a tender response in our hearts, and we desire to express our love and good will for you as brethren of the same household of faith, and as kinsmen in the land of our ancestors.

While we can never undervalue the great offering of Him who was made a sacrifice for sin who knew no sin, as the Saviour of mankind, whose outward life perished on Calvary; yet we also know the living Christ - within, which is the "grace of God that bringeth salvation" and which "hath appeared to all men" reproving all for

evil from time to time and powerfully drawing every one towards a life of righteousness. It is only as each individual yields obedience to this inward or spiritual light, as the governing principle of his life, that we can realize that this is the light which shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

We are but a band remaining of a once large nearly meeting yet we are still endeavoring to hold our meetings in the ancient manner of Friends, waiting in the silence of all flesh for the fresh anointings of the Holy Spirit on each successive occasion.

For fifty years past a vast movement of apostacy from our ancient faith has swept away from the true foundation many of those who have professed our name in this land. This movement had its inception in the ungrounded theories promulgated largely by members in high standing in your country; but unimpaired eyes early discerned the movement and foresaw the devastation which must ensue, and warning cries were raised from

the watch-towers on the walls; yet the warnings were unheeded and the faithful watchmen were punished as disturbers of the peace.

The predictions uttered so many years ago have been most strikingly fulfilled, thus confirming the prophetic view of those who, in the visions of light, saw the end of the unsound teachings, and perceived that the inevitable result must be the abandonment of the principles of Friends, and the introduction of outward ordinances and a hired ministry.

This retrograde movement has proceeded rapidly in this country, until many of the Meetings which you have exclusively recognised here as co-ordinate branches of the Society, have abandoned, not only the sublime but even the semblance of Quakerism, and have taken that position from which George Fox and his contemporaries first took their departure. Meanwhile the suffering seed has remained under the foot of the oppressor, and the parent Meeting of London has not only consented, but is in full fellowship with those

the trample upon the precious Testimonies for
which our fathers suffered.

We fully believe that the
revival of primitive Christianity by George Fox
and his coadjutors, was ordered and sanctioned
by the great Head of the Church, Christ Jesus
our once crucified but now glorified Saviour,
and surely that King of Kings cannot require
us to abandon the very Testimonies which He
led them into, and which cost many of them
their fortunes and their lives.

Our desire for you,
dear Friends, is that you may live so near to
the Fountain of Truth that you will be enabled
to put aside every wrong and inconsistent thing,
that there may be a singleness of true unity
among all faithful Friends who love the ancient
Testimonies; and our prayer is that we may all
be found faithful under the cross of Christ in
the day of the visitations of suffering by which
He chastens His loved ones; and putting aside
all hindering things attend to the simple man-
ifestations of the Love of Christ in our own
hearts, so we are enabled to discern the

morning of His Spirit.

We trust, dear Friends, that there is still a living seed both in your Land and ours, which we pray the great Husbandman may water with Heavenly dew, and nourish with beams from the Sun of Righteousness, that there may be a fruitage seen in the Lord's vineyard unto His praise and glory.

With earnest desires for your preservation
we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the
Meeting held at Hesterly in the sixth month 1896

John W. Foster. Clerks.
Mary A. Gadsden.

Copy of the Epistle directed to be read
to the first Convention Yearly Meetings in
America from London Yearly Meeting held
5th mo 1845.

Dear Friends:

At this Yearly Meeting a re-
port has been presented respecting to bodies &
Friends in America who have become sepa-
rated from us, from various causes since the year
1830. Whilst we deplore these separations, our
hearts go forth to you in love as we dwell on
the unity of our common Faith. Christ is the
true light which lighteth every man that cometh
into the world; with you we desire to know
his leadership over us, not alone in our Meetings
for worship, but in our whole lives. It is his
Spirit which is given to us, as to all men, both
to lead men to him, and to reveal to believers
the deep things of God. It is by faith in him
as the sacrifice for us that we are brought near
to him in the forgiveness of our sins, and it is
by his guidance and power that we are enabled
to follow him in faithfulness. As our Lord
still lives and reigns, we acknowledge no

other guidance than His in our lives or in our
worship, no other baptism than that of the
Holy Ghost and of fire, and no other com-
munion than that with our Father in
Heaven through Him.

In a measure of His love we would greet
you, and commend you afresh to Him
who is able to do exceeding abundantly
above all that we ask or think.

Signed in and on behalf of the Yearly
Meeting held in London. 5th mo 1895
Caleb Kemp. Clerk.

To New England Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held
at Westbury N. H.

Beloved Friends.

Under some sense of my own deficiencies and inability to stir up the pure mind in you, by any might or wisdom of my own, yet, with a sincere desire for your spiritual welfare, and that the cause of Truth may be promoted through you, as instruments in the Lord's hand, I venture thus to address you.

In looking back to my early acquaintance with the members of your meeting many years ago, I can recall many who were indeed as fathers and mothers in the Church. John Wilbur, Francis Taber, Prince and Benjamin Gardner, Mary Macy, Seth and Mary Davis, and others, who lived near to the Lord in spirit, and whom He dignified, and entrusted with precious gifts to be used in His service. These have mostly gone to their eternal reward: and I have feared that some of the younger members among you, have not so fully yielded themselves to the government of the spirit of Christ - as to become qualified, rightly to fill the places which they had occupied.

The most exalted and dignified position which any one can attain in this life, is that of a faithful servant of Christ, a warrior in the Church's army, contending against all evil in himself, and endeavoring to promote the Kingdom of his Lord, and Master, in every way which the Head of the Church directs.

The Apostle says, "no man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life," and so we ought to feel that the cause of Christ should be first in our affections and our aims, and that everything else should be subordinate to that, and but of secondary importance.

Our Saviour's command is "Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and the righteousness thereof," and the promise is assured, that all things necessary shall be added.

We are not to be slothful in attention to our outward business and social duties, but at the same time, we must be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. I do not mention these things as if I supposed you were ignorant of them, but with a desire to encourage a full submission to the influences of the Spirit, the Drawings of a Father's Love, which would lead out of a man.

formity ^{to} the spirit of the world. Do not be ashamed
to be known as members of the Society of Friends
by your dress, your language and your manners.

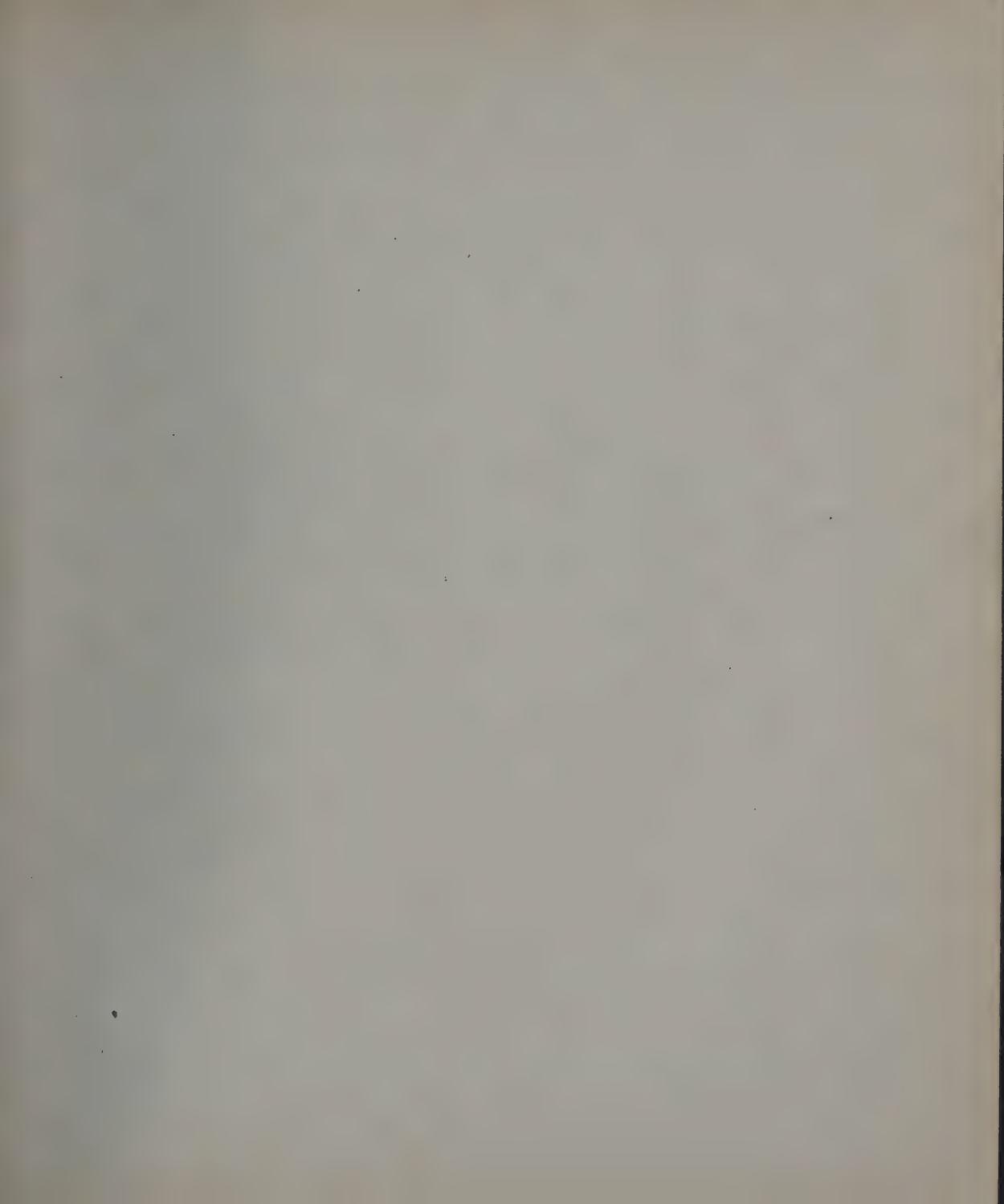
Real that you are making an honorable pro-
fession, do nothing to lower the reputation of the
Truth, but so act, and live as to bring glory to
your Father who is in Heaven, so that you may
become as a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

Then your example will have an inviting in-
fluence to those who are seeking the way to God,
saying to them Come and make Fellowship with
us, for our Fellowship is with the Father and
with his son Jesus Christ.

With desires that the
Lord may raise up among you, many living
witnesses to His Grace and Power, and that His
Blessing may rest abundantly upon you indi-
vidually and as a Church. I am your Friend

Joseph Walton.

E. Y. 1890.



The sun shall leave its shining brightness
and cease to give light to the world; and the
moon shall be altogether darkness and give
no light unto the night; the stars shall
cease to know their office or place; my
covenant with day and night, times and
seasons, shall sooner come to an end
than the covenant I have made with this
people, into which they are entered with
me, shall end or be broken.

Francis Howgill.

Christopher C. Hussey was a birthright-member of Nantucket-Monthly Meeting of Friends.

His father died before I was acquainted with C. and wife. His Mother had a home with them and was a plain aged Friend, a goodly woman, though not a deeply exercised member.

Christopher, when a young man, joined the Methodist Society, was not a Minister but a prominent, active member in prayer meetings &c.

After a time he evidently became convinced of the principles of Friends and the value of the birthright he had lost; then returned to the Society, dressed very plainly and after some time began to speak in the ministry. His gift was acknowledged, and it appeared rightly so for he was evidently humble, watchful and in every way consistent. But the enemy found access and by degrees lifted him up above the witness for Truth in the heart and he began to think and express that Friends were too narrow in their views, that some testimonies had lost their usefulness, &c, until it became the sad duty of his Friends

to disown him from the meeting of Ministers and
Elders. Erile, as he admitted to a friend, pre-
vented him from taking any other seat, so he
left our meeting and I well believe after some
struggles, went to the Gurneyite Meeting, where
he spoke every First-day morning and drew
people to hear him. A neighbor told me he
wove poetry into his sermons beautifully. But
his new position did not stop there. He was
soon preaching in the Unitarian pulpit in his
native town, then became a Unitarian
Minister at a town near Boston, afterwards
at Billerica, at a salary at both places.

He resigned at Billerica a year or two
since and I think lives at Wellesley Hills now.
H. C. H.

2nd mo 1897.



